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Message Text

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PAGE 01 RABAT 01943 112004Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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O P 111925Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY RABAT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1544
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TUNIS IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOS
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
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AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 1943

EXDIS

ALGIERS AND TUNIS FOR UNDER SECRETARY HABIB

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PFOR, MO, CG
SUBJECT: KING HASSAN CONVOKES AMBASSADORS OF FIVE PERMANENT SECURITY
COUNCIL MEMBERS ON ZAIRE

1. ING HASSAN CONVOKED SOVIET, CHINESE, FRENCH AND
BRITISH AMBASSADORS AND MYSELF TO MARRAKECH ON SUNDAY,
APRIL 10, FOR PRESENTATION OF MOROCCAN POSITION ON
DISPATCH OF MILITARY CONTINGENT TO ZAIRE. FONMIN LARAKI
ALSO ATTENDED. (PRESS AND PHOTOGRAPHERS PRESENT BRIEFLY
AT OUTSET OF MEETING, WHICH RECEIVED FRONT-PAGE COVERAGE
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IN APRIL 11 PAPERS.) HIGHLIGHTS OF 40-MINUTE MEETING
FOLLOW:

A. KING WISHED US TO HEAR MOROCCAN REASONING DIRECTLY
FROM HIM, IN ADDITION TO STATEMENTS ALREADY ISSUED BY
GOM. FOLLOWING 1961 CASABLANCA CONFERENCE WHICH
RESULTED IN CREATION OF OAU, FIRST PROBLEM NEW ORGANIZATION

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HAD HAD TO FACE WAS SECESSIONIST MOVEMENT IN CONGO. MOROCCO HAD PARTICIPATED IN RESTORING PEACE BY SENDING CONTINGENT AT THAT TIME. NEXT MAJOR PROBLEM BEFORE AFRICANS HAD BEEN ANGOLA, BUT LATTER COULD NOT BE COMPARED WITH CURRENT ZAIRE SITUATION. ANGOLA HAD BEEN INTERNAL STRUGGLE AMONG THREE INDIGENOUS LIBERATION MOVEMENTS. IT HAD NOT BEEN MEMBER OF OAU, HAD NOT BEEN A RECOGNIZED STATE, AND THERE HAD BEEN NO REQUEST FOR OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE.

B. ZAIRE SITUATION WAS TOTALLY DIFFERENT. MOBUTU WAS INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED CHIEF OF STATE, ZAIRE HAD INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED BORDERS, AND AGGRESSION WAS FROM OUTSIDE. FURTHERMORE, MOBUTU HAD ASKED FOR OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE THROUGH THE OAU.

C. ZAIRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER NGUZA HAD SEEN KING ON MARCH 25 WITH REQUEST FOR FOOD AND MEDICAL SUPPLIES. SUBSEQUENTLY, KING HAD RECEIVED PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM MOBUTU ASKING FOR MILITARY ASSISTANCE. KING HAD RESPONDED BY SENDING MILITARY TEAM TO EXAMINE SITUATION IN ZAIRE TO DETERMINE HOW MOROCCO MIGHT HELP. FOLLOWING RETURN OF TEAM, GOM HAD DECIDED, BECAUSE OF EXTREME SERIOUSNESS OF PROBLEM, TO SEND MILITARY CONTINGENT.

D. ALGERIA CAUSING DIFFICULTIES FOR ZAIRE, HAVING HALTED LONG-TERM PETROLEUM CONTRACT AND DEMANDED IMMEDIATE PAYMENT OF OUTSTANDING BILL OF $47 MILLION. ALGERIA PROBABLY RETALIATING FOR ZAIRE'S PRO-MOROCCAN STANCE ON SAHARA AT LAST SUMMER'S COLOMBO NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE.
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E. MOROCCAN CONTINGENT WOULD BE MADE UP ENTIRELY OF VOLUNTEERS. OUT OF FOUR THOUSAND VOLUNTEERS FROM THREE MILITARY UNITS, 1200 TROOPS WERE ACTUALLY BEING SENT. KING SAW ENTHUSIASM OF MILITARY AS CONFIRMING SIGN OF HIGH MOTIVATION, SIMILAR TO THAT DEMONSTRATED BY MOROCCAN FORCES IN 1973 MIDDLE EAST WAR AND LAST YEAR'S "GREEN MARCH" INTO SAHARA.

F. KING OFFERED HIS "MOST FORMAL ASSURANCES" THAT (1) MOROCCAN FORCES WOULD NOT CROSS ZAIRE BORDERS UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES, EVEN IN PURSUIT OF AGGRESSORS, AND (2) NO MOROCCAN SOLDIER WOULD REMAIN IN ZAIRE AFTER TERMINATION OF MISSION.

G. REFERRING TO SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE GREAT POWERS, KING ASKED FOR THEIR MODERATION, FOR THEIR UNDERSTANDING OF MOROCCAN MOTIVES AND FOR THEIR EFFORTS TO REDUCE TENSIONS IN ZAIRE. IN INTEREST OF PEACE IN

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AREA AND AFRICAN SOLIDARITY, MOROCCO FELT HONOR BOUND
UNDER OAU CHARTER TO HELP PRESERVE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY
OF MEMBER STATES. MOBUTU HAD ALWAYS BEEN CLOSE FRIEND
OF MOROCCO. FURTHERMORE, INSTABILITY IN ZAIRE COULD HAVE
REPERCUSSIONS ON THE SUDAN, ANOTHER KEY STATE IN REGION,
AND SUBSEQUENTLY HAVE DESTABILIZING EFFECT INVOLVING
EGYPT, SAUDI ARABIA AND OTHER MODERATE COUNTRIES WORKING
TOWARDS PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

H. CONHESIVENESS OF OAU HAD BEEN DISRUPTED BY A FEW
SMALL, RADICAL STATES. COUNTRIES WITH DIFFERING POLITICAL,
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SYSTEMS COULD NOT BE EXPECTED TO WORK
HARMONIOUSLY TOGETHER IN SUCH AN ORGANIZATION. PROBABLE
EVOLUTION COULD WELL BE DEMISE OF OAU AS WE KNOW IT TO
BE REPLACED BY MORE HOMOGENOUS REGIONAL GROUPINGS. LEADERS
OF VIRTUALLY EVERY NEW INDEPENDENT AFRICAN STATE HAD TAKEN
POWER BY "HOLDUPS", AND THESE ECONOMICALLY POOR COUNTRIES
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HAD NO LEADERSHIP "ELITE". KING ADVISED GREAT POWERS
AGAINST BECOMING TOO CLOSE TO THESE STATES, WHICH WILL ONLY
BE FINANCIAL BURDENS AND NEVER RELIABLE FRIENDS. WITH ITS
LONG-STANDING TRADITIONS, WELL-DEVELOPED LEADERSHIP,
CURRENT PROGRESS TOWARD PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY AND IMPRESSIVE
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, MOROCCO DID NOT POSE A PROBLEM FOR
SUCH RELATIONSHIPS.

I KING BRIEFLY DISMISSED CHARGES OF MOROCCAN INVOLVE-
MENT IN RECENT BENIN COUP ATTEMPT, ALONG LINES OF
HIS MARCH 14 TALK WITH ME (RABAT 1439).

2. COMMENT: KING'S PRESENTATION FOLLOWS MOROCCAN NOTIFICA-
TION OF OAU, AND APPEARS TO BE PART OF A CONCERTED
MOROCCAN DIPLOMATIC AND INFORMATION CAMPAIGN. KING DID
NOT REQUEST ANY SPECIFIC SUPPORT FROM THE FIVE POWERS, BUT
ONLY THEIR "UNDERSTANDING" AND EFFORTS TO CALM SITUATION.
IN CONSIDERING ATTITUDE TOWARDS ZAIRE SITUATION OF THOSE
PRESENT, FRENCH AMBASSADOR RAIMOND AND I CAME AWAY WITH
IMPRESSION THAT FOUR OF US WERE USED AS CONVENIENT PROPS
FOR A DEMARCHE MEANT PRIMARILY FOR ONE REPRESENTATIVE --
THE SOVIET.
ANDERSON

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